

amylose starches and modified forms thereof.

22. The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 wherein the high amylose starch includes maize starch having an amylose content of 50% w/w or more.

24. The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 wherein the high amylose starch includes rice or wheat starch having an amylose content of 27% w/w or more.

25. The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 wherein the high amylose starch includes a particular granular size ranges of starches having an amylose content of 50% or more with enhanced resistant starch content.

26. The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 wherein the high amylose starch is derived from plants selected from the group consisting of maize, barley, wheat, rice, legumes, bananas, potatoes, or modified forms thereof.

27. The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 wherein the resistant starch is modified chemically, enzymatically, and/or physically.

30. The improved probiotic composition according to claim 20 wherein the modified resistant starch is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylated starch, acetylated starch, octenyl succinated starch, carboxymethylated starch, and succinated starch.

31. An improved method of providing probiotic microorganisms to the gastrointestinal tract of an animal, the improved method comprising administering to the animal the improved probiotic composition according to claim 20.